

Samuel Simmonds House
109 S. Royal Street
Alexandria
Virginia

HABS No. VA-684

HABS
VA
7-ALEX,
165-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

SAMUEL SIMMONDS HOUSE

HABS
VA
7-ALEX,
165-

Location: 109 S. Royal Street, Alexandria, Virginia

Present Owner: Demolished in 1968 by the Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority as part of an urban renewal project in the old commercial center of Alexandria.

Statement of Significance: This much altered building housed commercial activities on the first story and stood along Royal Street just off the main commercial thoroughfare of King Street.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Sometime between 1787 and 1790.

The site of what was later 109 S. Royal Street was the southern fifteen feet of the 30 foot frontage of the lot of ground conveyed to John Longden (see HABS reports on the John Longden Houses at 105 and 107 S. Royal Street, VA-685, and 111 S. Royal Street, VA-689) by William Young on January 13, 1787. About three months later, on April 18, 1787, John Longden conveyed this fifteen feet to Samuel Simmonds.

In a deed of December 11, 1790, on the property adjoining 109 S. Royal Street on the south, a reference is made to the "Brick house lately built by Samuel Simmonds."

2. Architect: Unknown
3. Original and subsequent owners: Samuel Simmonds was the original owner. In Simmonds' will dated May 18, 1809, and recorded October 31, 1809, Simmonds bequeathed this house and lot to his daughter, Mary Ingle, and to her daughter Eliza.

Mary Ingle and her husband Joseph apparently lived across the street from the property her father bequeathed her (today 112 S. Royal Street) until sometime in 1815. Joseph Ingle, on June 21, 1815, advertised in the Alexandria Gazette--Commercial and Political - "FOR SALE OR LEASE--The House and Lot at present occupied by the Subscriber on Royal Street between King and Prince Streets. The dwelling is 22 feet front and 30 feet deep, with a convenient alley, and a large back

building of about the same size, an excellent frame, two stories high . . . Immediate possession may be had.
N.B. I have for sale several articles of CABINET WARE . . ."

Ingle ran the same advertisement on June 18, 1816, with a note at the end "N.B. The cabinet and upholstery business is now carried on in the house on the alley to the east of said premises."

The same advertisement again appeared on January 28, 1817, but this time--"TO LET--the house lately occupied by William Wood, situated on Royal Street, south of King Street, three doors below the office of Samuel Snowden . . . Also, the house I at present occupy to the east of the above. JOSEPH INGLE."

It is possible that in 1815, the Ingles moved across the street to 109 S. Royal Street, and used it as their dwelling, although Ingle's shop apparently remained on the east side of Royal Street.

The Ingles sold the property on the east side of Royal Street in 1817. Ingle died some time thereafter. On October 1, 1839, Mary Ingle and her daughter Eliza conveyed the property at 109 S. Royal Street to Cornelius Jacobs of Washington, D. C. for \$900. Four years later Jacobs sold the property, for the same price, to Edward Burchell. Burchell was also the purchaser in 1846 of the property at 111 South Royal Street from the heirs of John Longden.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Mary Ingle was the wife of Joseph Ingle, a carpenter, who advertised in the Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette of June 9, 1795: "Joseph Ingle has MAHOGANY PLANK, and continues to carry on the Cabinet and Chair-Making business at his shop on Royal Street, four doors below King Street." The accounts relating to the funeral expenses of George Washington include a statement dated January 16th, 1800, from Henry and Joseph Ingle, to "The Estate of the late Gen'l George Washington, disceased (sic)"--

December 25th - For McKiy (Mhgy-Mahogany?) Coffin and silver plate engraved furnished with lace, handles as covered case with	
lifters	\$88.00
To sundery charges	<u>11.25</u>
	\$99.25

Particular charges

Dec. 16 Hire of the cochee	\$8.00
" Hire of the Bier	2.00
" 25 Hire of a Horse	1.25

This statement is given in footnote 59, page 628, of Volume VII, George Washington, First in Peace by John Alexander Carroll and Mary Wells Ashworth, Completing the Biography of Douglas Southall Freeman (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1957). That there may have been difficulties in reading the accounts is shown by the reference, in adjacent notes, to George W. Muns (should be George McMunn) an Alexandrian Coppersmith, and to Margaret Gutten (should be Margaret Gretter).

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: Newspaper articles as cited. Fairfax Deed Book, Q-1, p. 318; Alexandria Deed Book B (Hustings), p. 415; Alexandria Deed Book N (Hustings), p. 186; Alexandria Deed Books G, p. 99; E-2, p. 78; C-3, p. 460; Alexandria Will Book C, Orphans' Court, p. 292.
2. Secondary and published sources: Carroll, John Alexander and Mary Wells Ashworth, George Washington, First in Peace (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1957).

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

A later colonial-revival facade dating from c. 1956 conceals the original of this two-and-a-half-story building.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Two-and-a-half stories, two bays.
2. Chimneys: Interior end chimney.
3. Openings: An arched passageway runs between it and 107 S. Royal Street.
4. Roof: Gable roof with dormer.

C. Description of Interior:

Modified two-room plan.

D. Site:

The building faces eastward on the west side of S. Royal Street.

Prepared by Mrs. Hugh B. Cox of
The Historic Alexandria
Foundation
July 1968
Edited by
Antoinette J. Lee
November 1975

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken in 1968 to document the commercial and residential buildings of downtown Alexandria which were to be demolished in an urban renewal project. The project was cosponsored by the Historic Alexandria Foundation and the Historic American Buildings Survey. Mrs. Hugh B. Cox was the historian and George Eisenman supplied the photographs. The material was edited and updated in 1975 by Antoinette J. Lee, working on contract for HABS.